



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROVES LOW INTEREST LOAN FOR HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT**

**HARRISVILLE, RI** – The Harrisville Fire District and the residents they serve received some welcome news, with the approval of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. On behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, David Tuttle, State Director of Rural Development announced the approval of a \$188,500 low interest loan to the Harrisville Fire District.

The funding will be used to purchase a state of the art 2002 Pierce Enforcer Engine with a 1500 gallon per minute pump, 1000-gallon water tank and a 100-gallon foam tank along with a full compliment of fire fighting equipment. This new truck will replace a 1978 International that is no longer capable of supplying the service required for adequate fire protection.

“This new engine will enhance our fire fighting capabilities not only for the Harrisville Fire District, but the entire Town of Burrillville”, said Chief Mark A. St. Pierre. “We are grateful that the funding from the USDA will allow us to replace an aging truck with a high quality piece of fire apparatus with an affordable yearly payment.”

“Our mission at Rural Development is to provide the much needed funding and support to communities and entities like the Harrisville Fire District, that are energetically working to improve the quality of the fire protection that they provide to the residents of the district”, said State Director David Tuttle.

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Congressman Patrick Kennedy commented: “As recent events have shown us, there are fewer careers in life that are more dangerous, yet more rewarding, than fire fighting. I'm proud to have supported efforts across Rhode Island to continually modernize the equipment that these brave firefighters use. From the earliest Farnam-style hand-pump fire engines from the late 18th century to the four-wheeled, horse-drawn hose-reel fire engines in the 19th century to the 2002 Pierce we see today, we owe it to our firefighters to keep investing in technology that will keep them safe while protecting us. This improvement in technology this truck represents today represents another step forward in fire technology”.

The funding is made available to the Harrisville Fire District through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loan Program. Through this program, USDA Rural Development provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for the renovation or construction of public buildings, the purchase of public safety equipment, and other activities in rural areas and communities with a population of fewer than 20,000. This loan is repayable over 15 years at an interest rate of 4.75%.

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